rubber wood. Generally, these units are in the private sector. Rubber Board does not collect details of production and marketing of rubber-wood by these units. However, it is estimated that the annual installed capacity of the important rubber wood processing units is around 66300 cubic metres of sawn timber.

(b) and (c). Duty 1996-97, one rubber wood processing unit is likely to be set up in the joint sector with equity participation from Rubber Board under the world Bank assisted Rubber Project which is under implementation.

Coal Controller

5703. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether appointing of Coal Controller has been made by the Government;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in making the appointment; and

(c) the role of the Coal Controller in the distribution of coal to various States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). A proposal for selection to the post of Coal Controller, after following the prescribed recruitment procedure has been sent to the Union Public Service Commission. Recommendations of the Commission are awaited. Pending receipt of recommendation of the Union Public Service Commission one senior officer of the Ministry of Coal has been entrusted with the additional charge of the office of the Coal Controller.

(c) Under clause 12A of the Colliery Control Order, 1945, Coal Controller has been appointed a competent authority to allot quota of coal to any person or class of persons subject to the guidelines issued by the Govt. However, if for any reasons Coal Controller is not able to do so, coal companies have been allowed to distribute coal on the basis of linkages/sponsorships. As per a recent amendment made by the Government no new allotment of coal is required to be made by the Coal Controller for coking coals and such grade of non-coking coal as may have been notified by the Government. Coal can be allotted by Coal Controller subject to linkages granted by the Central Government or by the Coal Companies in the case of non-core sector consumers. Once the linkages are granted by the Central Government or coal company coal is allotted on monthly or quarterly basis subject to availability of coal and for actual consumption. Keeping in view the *inter-se* priority of various competing consumers.

Service Area Approach for Banks in U.P.

5704. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages covered under the scheme of service area approach by a branch of public sector bank in States particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the norms fixed by the banks in regard to giving loans for rural development ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that at the time of introduction of Service Area Approach (SAA) Scheme i.e. April, 1989, approximately 15 to 25 villages were identified and allotted to each rural and semi-urban branch of commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The average number of villages allocated per branch worked out to 14.7 on an all India basis at that time. In Uttar Pradesh, the average number of villages per branch (rural and semi-urban) works out to 16.

(b) Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have given general instructions to promote lending in rural areas. As per extant RBI guidelines, 40 per cent of the net-bank credit outstandings of all commercial banks (excluding foreign banks) is to be directed towards the priority sector. Out of this 40 per cent, atleast 18 per cent is required to be directed towards agriculture. Further, poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme are also directed towards rural areas.

[Translation]

Textile Mills

5705. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number spinning mills set up in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total production capacity of these spinning mills; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the setting up of these mills ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). A Statement is attached.

(c) The expenditure incurred on setting up of mills is not maintained centrally.